



Palliser Triangle Meeting Summary Monday, May 25, 2020 / 11:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. / Zoom

Introducing your Palliser Triangle Health Advisory Council members:

In attendance: Reg Radke (Chair), Blake Pedersen (Vice Chair), Andrea Ames, Ajit Atwal, Lorrie Clizbe, Pat Dietrich, Paul Nederveen, Heather Norris, Angie Traill, Ron Wickson

AHS: Dr. Michael Auld, Katherine Chubbs, Christine Osunde, Colin Zieber

Regrets:

Community Input

20 members of the public attended.

AHS Presentation

Medical Assistance in Dying

Dr. Dionne Walsh, MD CCFP, Palliative Care Physician - Physician Lead, Medical Assistance in Dying

Brandi Roach, RN BScN BA, Nurse Navigator - Medical Assistance in Dying, South Zone

- Information was provided on the current laws surrounding Medical Assistance in Dying, An overview of government changes to the criminal code to address: eligibility criteria; safeguards; waiver of final consent; monitoring regime.

Website with Resources: www.ahs.ca/MAID

- Public & Professionals sections
- Links to Other Resources including Palliative Care, Clinical Ethics, Grief/Bereavement support and other agencies

Contact information:

- Navigator maid.south@ahs.ca or ph: 587 220-2465
- Dr. Dionne Walsh dionne.walsh@ahs.ca

Improving Virtual Health Session Experience - Ken (Sonny) Cherniawsky, Ken Cherniawsky, Clinical Facilitator, Virtual Health

- Virtual Health provides daily onsite, in-person South Zone session support. Specifically, at Chinook Regional Hospital and Medicine Hat Regional Hospital.
- The sites are primarily receiving facilities for clinical sessions. Ken spoke with Council to obtain feedback on how to fill in communication gaps with patients. E.g.: confirmation of patient sessions, wayfinding, general process explanation, equipment usage and technical support.

South Zone Update

The following information was shared with Council:

Katherine Chubbs, Chief Zone Officer, South Zone, provided the following update:

Update on COVID-19 in the South Zone:



- Surgeries restarted in the South Zone in May. 100 beds will be kept vacant to respond to future COVID-19 cases.
- AHS is currently working on a plan to test travelers entering the province: screening, isolation in hotels and treatment.
- Local Foundations have been very supportive in helping purchase things during COVID-19, including several iPads to lend to patients for virtual visits.
- A virtual gratitude board is sent once a week via email to AHS staff that report to Katherine that includes accolades received during the week.
- Katherine is a member of the AHS Treasury Board and they are currently focused on a 100-day plan that the government requested during the AHS review.
- There was a \$14.5M surplus in the South Zone for the 2019-2020 year. Efficiencies were found in vacancy management, travel, overtime and discretionary spending.
- A meeting featuring 'hot topics' is held weekly to ensure Katherine's entire team is up to date.

Questions and comments from Council

Q. What is the status of surgeries and testing in our HAC region?

A. There is a current backlog in some communities that AHS is working through.

Q. What is done to address temporary/agricultural workers?

A. AHS informs them of the isolation rules when they arrive.

Q. What plans are in place for long-term asymptomatic testing in Brooks?

A. There are no plans in place at this time.

Q. Where does Public Health fit in the organization chart for the South Zone?

A. The Medical Officer of Health (MOH) team reports provincially and works in partnership with Medical Officer of Health leads.

Q. Entrance rules into countries vary across the world; what does this look like for Canada as borders open?

A. The rule right now is when people come into Canada they are required to isolate for 14 days.

Actions/next steps

- Katherine to provide statistics on surgery backlogs.
- Katherine will provide an update on Palliative/LTC project in Brooks. Do you have an update on the Palliative/LTC project in Brooks?
- Katherine will find out if there are shortages of PPE for AHS staff in the zone.

Dr. Michael Auld, Acting South Zone Medical Director, provided a written report that was shared with Council May 21, 2020.

A member of Council asked what Alberta or Canada is doing to produce more home grown health professionals vs. bringing people in internationally? Dr. Auld responded that South Zone offers education and opportunities for those interested and who qualify.

Julie Davis, RhPAP consultant, shared the following:



- RhPAP has hired a new part-time rural consultant in Fort McMurray who will cover communities in the northeast of the province.
- The University of Alberta Chemistry Department is producing hand sanitizer and donated 500L to RhPAP. It was distributed to outlying Indigenous communities near High Level. As well, there is work underway to deal with the aftermath of flooding in Mackenzie County.

Events - Rural Health Week- May 25-29 #ruralhealthmatters

- Follow [RhPAP](#) on social media, subscribe its newsletter and more. Feel free to share rural health stories, appreciation, or review other community posts.
- During this week RhPAP shares community attraction and retention committee appreciation activities across the province.
- Rhapsody award winners will be announced for: Rural Physician, Health care heroes, rural attraction and retention committee awards

(RhPAP) Rural Community Health Provider Attraction & Retention Conference

The conference takes place October 6-8 in Drayton Valley. It brings together representatives from rural healthcare attraction and retention committees across the province to network, share and learn about rural healthcare workforce attraction and retention efforts.

Rural Health. The [Rural Municipality Association](#) (RMA) who advocates to provincial decision makers, released a Health Position Statement in March. The document provides a provincial perspective on county/Municipal District concerns on rural health issues. Here is an additional resource for information on [AIMG - Alberta Residency training for International Medical Graduates](#) (IMGs).

Chairs Report

Council Chair, Reg Radke, provided a written report that was shared with Council May 18, 2020.

Coordinator Report

Christine Osunde, Advisory Council Coordinator, provided the following update:

Election of Chair

Elections were held for the position of Chair of the Council.

- Christine Osunde opened the floor for nominations.
- Reg Radke submitted his nomination for the position of Chair.
- Christine Osunde asked three times if there are any further nominations from the floor.
- Reg Radke is declared the successful candidate for the position of Chair of the Palliser Triangle Health Advisory Council by acclamation, for a term of one year ending May 2021.

Election of Vice Chair



Elections were held for the position of Vice Chair of the Council.

- Christine Osunde opened the floor for nominations.
- Blake Pedersen submitted his nomination for the position of Vice Chair.
- Christine Osunde asked three times if there are any further nominations from the floor.
- Blake Pedersen is declared the successful candidate for the position of Chair of the Palliser Triangle Health Advisory Council by acclamation, for a term of one year ending May 2021.

Actions/next steps:

- Christine to put forth the names of Reg Radke, Chair, and Blake Pedersen, Vice Chair, to the CE Committee of the Board for a term of one year ending May 2021.

Council Member Roundtable & Good News

Q: Andrea Ames is frustrated with the false information getting out around COVID-19. Is there a way AHS can get out in front of it?

A: Katherine said she is aware, and communications is doing their best to get out in front of the rumors.

- Ron Wickson says things are going very well in the community of Bassano with no cases of COVID-19.
- Angie Traill says it seems like COVID-19 is the only thing anyone is talking about killing people.
- Blake Pedersen wants AHS to keep reporting and informing, on other health issues.

Council is accepting new members. Anyone interested in applying can do so through the [AHS website](#). The next meeting of the Palliser Triangle HAC is scheduled for Monday, **January 18, 2021, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.**; **location: Medicine Hat Regional Hospital.**

Learn about the four organizational goals of AHS in the [2017-2020 AHS Health Plan and Business Plan](#).

Join us in changing the conversation from [illness to wellness](#).

Our meetings are open to the public. Dates and locations are [available here](#). [Find your Health Advisory Council here](#). Visit the [webpage](#) for more info.

Contact us at: PalliserTriangle@ahs.ca